

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: State Clearinghouse
PO Box 3044/ 1400 Tenth St
Sacramento CA 95814

From: County of Tulare – RMA
5961 S Mooney Blvd
Visalia CA 93277

Date: October 2, 2012

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Project Title: Harvest-Tulare Anaerobic Digester and Compressed Natural Gas Facility Project (Harvest-Tulare AD and CNG Project)

Project Applicant: Harvest Power California, LLC

Project Location: 24487 Road 140, Tulare, CA 93274,
Section/Township Range: 33/19S/25E MDB&M

Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report of the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

A scoping meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 1, 2012 at 1:30 pm in the Main Conference Room of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address shown above.

Please direct your response to Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner at the address shown above. He may be contacted by e-mail at hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us or by telephone at 559-624-7121.

Please provide us with the name of a contact person in your agency.

Date 10/02/12

Signature 
Title Chief Environmental Planner

Date 10/2/12

Signature 
Title Assistant Director, Planning

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Project Description:

Harvest Power California LLC is proposing to add an anaerobic digester on the site to process organic materials into fuel and digestate that will contribute to soil amendment production. At this time, it has not been determined if this facility will be a high solids digester (processing food and green material) or a low solids digester (processing primarily food material). As such, both alternatives will be evaluated in the environmental document. The facility will produce transportation fuel either through a compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling station or by injecting directly into a nearby natural gas pipeline. Therefore, both a CNG refueling station and direct injection to the natural gas pipeline will be evaluated in the environmental document. The CNG) refueling station will be constructed on the existing Harvest-Tulare composting operations on 35 acres of an existing 87.6 acre site. The project will also include a CNG refueling station on an adjacent 5 acre parcel.

The existing facility has been operational since 1996. The Harvest-Tulare composting facility currently holds operating permits to compost green material, food, and dairy manure. All material produced at the facility has organic certification. The proposed Project will increase and shift types of materials and quantities accepted at the facility. All material will continue to be handled, processed and stored to prevent odor, vectors or other public nuisances. The finished product markets will continue to include local nurseries, landscape services and farmers.

The proposed project will increase total tonnage at the site from 86,000 tons per year to a potential 216,000 tons per year. The increase includes both the proposed anaerobic digester and increasing tonnages at the composting facility. Of this amount, 156,000 tons per year will be food and yard material used in the anaerobic digester and composting operations, and 60,000 tons per year will be manure composting. It is not anticipated that the total amount will be attained at the site; however, the breakdown of the tonnages will allow for flexibility in materials handling.

Construction-related activities of the proposed Project will require approximately 15 to 20 construction workers resulting in an average of approximately 25 construction vehicle trips per day. These construction-related vehicle trips will be temporary and short in duration.

The proposed Project is anticipated to result in an increase of total vehicle trips per day as a result of additional haul trucks, employee trips, and customer trips. The environmental document will evaluate existing vehicle trips and project-related vehicle trip increases. Seasonal peak vehicle trips will also be evaluated.

Project Objectives:

- To increase energy production capabilities on the current footprint of the composting facility pad;
- To provide fuel for trucks using the facility;
- To generate additional renewable energy resources to the County of Tulare while continuing to produce high quality organically certified compost;

- To implement the company's strategic business plan by planning, designing, constructing and operating a facility which is economically, technologically and environmentally feasible.

Location:

The project site is located at 24487 Road 140, Tulare, CA 93274, on the west side of Road 140, with the entrance located approximately 0.6 miles north of the intersection of Road 140 with Avenue 240, 1.3 miles east of the City of Tulare, in Tulare County, California.

The proposed Project will be located on approximately 35 acres of two parcels totaling 35 acres: APN 150-140-014 and 150-140-016. The proposed CNG fueling station is located on a 3rd APN: 150-130-004. Section/Township Range: 33/19S/25E MDB&M. Latitude/ Longitude: N36 13' 56.5782/W 119 16' 10.5414.

Maps

See following pages for vicinity and project site maps.

Land Use:

The existing facility has been operational since 1996. The Harvest-Tulare composting facility currently holds operating permits (PSP 92-091) to compost green material, food, and dairy manure. The Project site is zoned AE-40 (Exclusive Agriculture, 40 acre minimum). The General Plan designation is Rural Valley Lands Plan (RVLP). The two larger parcels in the Project site are subject to Land Conservation (Williamson Act) contracts.

Surrounding land uses primarily agricultural mixture of orange orchards, row crops and farmed lands; rural residences located less than 1 mile south and east of the site. Rural residences are located less than one (1) mile south and east of the site. Commercial businesses located to the N and SE of the proposed project site. The Sundale Preschool and Elementary School are located less than 1 mile SE of the site, at the NW corner of the intersection of Road 140 and Avenue 240.

Potential Environmental Impacts:

It is anticipated that potential environmental impacts may occur to include biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, and traffic.

Reviewing Agencies

State and Federal:

- California Department of Conservation – Division of Land Resource Protection)
- California Department of Fish and Game Region #4
- California Water Resources Control Board #5

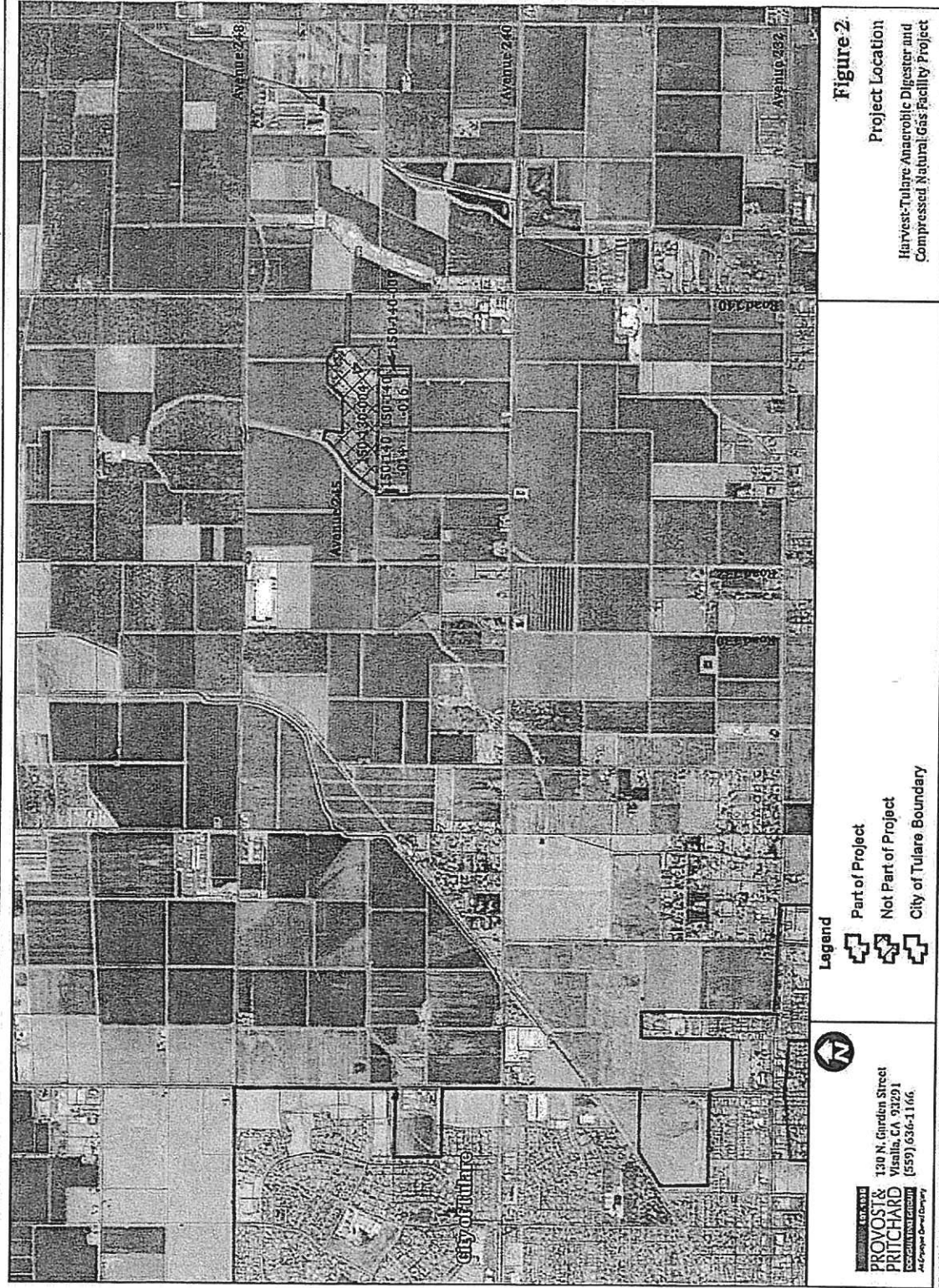
- California Department of Toxic Substance Control
- California Energy Commission
- Cal/Environmental Protection Agency
- Caltrans District #6
- Native American Heritage Commission
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Local:

Tulare County Resource Management Agency:

- Environmental Health
- Flood
- Fire
- Planning: Project Review and Building

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION



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County of Tulare RMA

Harvest-Tulare AD and CNG Project
July 2012

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

